

C' -- In one preferred embodiment, the SCC polymer is substantially free of functional groups and consists essentially of units derived from least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50, preferably 16 to 50, carbon atoms. In another preferred embodiment, the SCC polymer is substantially free of functional groups and consists essentially of units derived from

- (i) at least 50% of at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50, preferably 16 to 50, carbon atoms, and
- (ii) less than 50% of at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms. --

In the Claims

Please rewrite claims 10 and 11 as set out below. In accordance with 37 CFR 121 (c):

- (1) A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is set out below, starting on a new page. In this version,
 - (i) the claims are without markings to indicate the changes made,
 - (ii) in each claim, a parenthetical expression follows the claim number indicating the status of the claim as amended or unchanged, and
 - (iii) the earlier cancellation of some of the claims has been noted.
- (2) Attached hereto is a separate paper entitled " Version with Markings to show Changes requested by the Reply mailed April 25, 2001 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (1) (ii)". This paper sets out each of the rewritten claims (but not any of the other claims), marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claim. In this version,
 - (i) a parenthetical expression (which is the same as the parenthetical expression in the clean version of claims set out below) follows the claim number and indicates the status of the claim as amended, and
 - (ii) the changes are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

Claim 1 was previously canceled

2. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10 which is substantially free of water.

3. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which is a water-in-oil emulsion and which comprises

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

and

(d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

Claim 4 was previously canceled

5. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3% by weight and contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 was previously canceled

7. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which comprises

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and
 - (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) homopolymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

8. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 7, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from an n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

9. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3% by weight and the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms.

10. (Twice Amended) A thickened oil composition comprising

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
and

(d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and which consists essentially of

(i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and

(ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

Sub 8
F3 11. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 10 wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3 % by weight and the n-alkyl group in the (i) units contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms.

12. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein T_p is above 40 °C.

13. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

14. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10°C.

Claims 15 and 16 were previously canceled.

17. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which is a water-in-oil emulsion and which comprises

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which

- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C;
- (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
- (d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical or a linear substantially perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and
- (e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

18. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 17, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

19. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 17, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

20. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which comprises

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC) homopolymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

- (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
- (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
- (d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear substantially perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and
- (e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .